

The Global **NEW LIGHT** of MYANMAR

UNICEF Myanmar issues flood preparedness advisory

UNICEF Myanmar has issued flood preparedness guidance to help people respond quickly and reduce the risk of injury, death and property damage caused by sudden flooding.

The agency stressed that floods can have a particularly severe impact on children and families, and urged the public to understand what to do before, during and after a flood.

SEE PAGE 5

unicef | for every child

ရေမတက်ခင် ဒါတွေကို ပြင်ဆင်ထားရပါမယ်

- ဘယ်ကို သွားမလဲ
- လူကွဲသွားရင် ဘယ်မှာ ပြန်တွေ့မလဲ
- ဘာတွေ ယူသွားမလဲ
- ကလေးတွေ ဘာတွေ သိထားသင့်လဲ

အရေးပေါ်လိုမယ် မခွဲညှားတွေကို အခုကတည်းက စုပြင်ထားရင် အရေးပေါ်အချိန်မှာ အဆင်သင့် ဖြစ်နေတာပေါ့

UNICEF Myanmar's illustrated guidance on flood preparedness and emergency response.

Pyithu Hluttaw Tackles Sectoral Development Challenges



The 20th-day meeting of the Third Pyithu Hluttaw's second regular session is underway yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Khin Yi and Deputy Speaker U Maung Maung Ohn.

The Third Pyithu Hluttaw held the 20th day of its second regular session yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, where lawmakers raised 10 queries covering free land transfer, free transportation services for civil servants, regional development, aquatic farming and value-added products production.

Maung Ohn chaired the session.

The Hluttaw recorded the participation of Myanmar Hluttaw representatives in the 2nd International Forum of the Union State “Great Heritage – Common Future” held in Belarus from 21 to 22 June 2026.

Responding to a question from U Nyein Htwe for the Insein Constituency regarding the transfer of the football stadium in Myanmar Railways land area in Insein Township to the Ministry of Sports free of charge, Deputy Minister for Transport U Aung Myaing said the ground had originally been built as a training and home ground for the former Ministry of Rail Transport football team and for sports and recreational activities of railway employees and their families. It is currently used free of charge for Myanmar Railways sports events and ceremonies and is also leased to Hanthawady United Football Club for training purposes at an annual rental fee of K40 million, generating revenue for the department. Therefore, there is currently no plan to transfer the land to the Ministry of Sports, although it will continue to be made available free of charge for sporting events.

SEE PAGE 4

MTE to Auction over 4,100 Tonnes of Teak, Hardwood

LOCAL Marketing and Milling Department, Myanmar Timber Enterprise, operated under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, called for an open tender to sell over 4,100 tonnes of logs and timbers of teak and hardwood.

Open tendering will be held at 8:30 am on 21 June at Tawwin Hall, Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Insein Township, Yangon.

Those logs and sawn timbers are sourced from southern Shan State, Bago



File photo showcases sawn timbers.

Region, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon Region.

Interested bidders may review the details of the open tender on the official website of Myanmar Timber Enterprise (www.mte.gov.mm) or by contacting the Local Marketing and Milling Department at 09 795700439 or 09 402705515, according to the Open Tender Holding Committee. — NN/KK



NATIONAL PAGE 6 BUSINESS PAGE 7

239 Chinese nationals transferred over online scam links

Monsoon paddy loan under REZ reaches over 310,000 acres in 55 townships

422 Sagaing Families Get MRCS Quake Relief



This photo highlights a housewife in Kyaukta Ward, Sagaing Township, receiving assistance with essential items.

SEE PAGE 5

NATIONAL

Heavy Rainfall Warning No 9

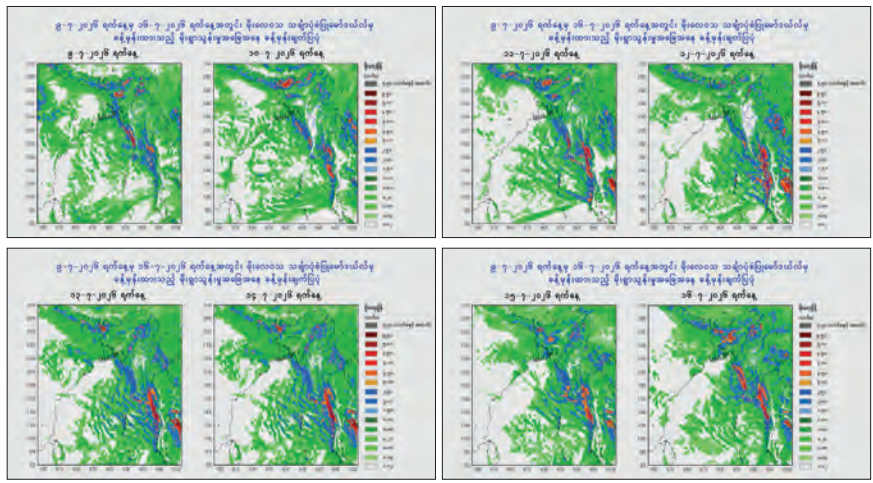
Issued at 8 am MST on 8 July 2026

ACCORDING to the observations at 6:30 am MST today, due to the strong monsoon over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal rain or thundershowers are likely to be fairly widespread to widespread in Yangon, Bago, Upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady, and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, and eastern Shan States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls during 9 July 2026 to 16 July 2026.

Squalls with rough seas are likely at times in off and along the Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squall may reach 30-35 miles per hour. Wave height will be about 8-10 feet off and along the Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

People should be aware of the strong to vigorous monsoon over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal and the Depression crossed North Odisha Coast close to Balasore, India, such as the heavy rainfall with strong wind, flash flood and landslide in the hilly areas and near small rivers and inland water transport and domestic flights. — DMH



Myanmar launches Maha Gita Competition to preserve classical songs



Musicians and music professionals gather at the press launch and fundraising ceremony for the “Maha Gita Singing Competition”, held under the theme “Promoting and Preserving the Heritage of Maha Gita”.

A press launch and fundraising ceremony for the Maha Gita Singing Competition to be held under the theme “Promoting and Preserving the Heritage of Maha Gita” took place on 1 July at the Mingun Tipitaka Golden Jubilee Hall in Dagon Township, Yangon Region.

The competition aims to preserve Myanmar’s classical Maha Gita songs and encourage a new generation of singers to value the country’s musical heritage.

Myanmar classical singer Daw Yi Yi Thant said the competition is to honour her teacher

and benefactor, harpist U Myint Maung (Inlay), mark her birthday on 12 July, and seek to prevent Maha Gita songs from disappearing.

In both the men’s and women’s categories, first, second and third prizes are K2 million, K1.5 million and K1 million, respectively, while each contestant will receive K200,000.

Yi Yi Thant, Hnin Yi Thant and other donors contributed K10 million. Bhaddanta Khemathiri (Hla Taw Sayadaw) donated K5 million, Aungzabyu Sayadaw K4.4 million, New Active Production K5 million and Music City Myanmar K2 million, bringing total donations to more than K35 million. — ASH/KNN

Public Notice for Martyrs’ Day Visitors to Mausoleum

1. Ballpoint pens, mobile phones, flags, handbags, cameras, lighters, flower wreaths, bouquets, baskets, vinyl, bottles, sticks, and flagpoles are strictly prohibited within the compound of the Martyrs’ Mausoleum.
2. All the visitors are required to wear masks systematically without fail.
3. All visitors must thoroughly wash their hands at the designated stations and use the provided hand sanitizers before entering.
4. For temperature screening and medical checkups at Link Road in Bahan Township, individuals are required to present a Citizenship Scrutiny Card, employee card, student ID, or another valid identification card, along with personal details such as name, ID number, address, and phone number.
5. Visitors must queue at least six feet apart in compliance with the Ministry of Health’s social distancing guidelines. Anyone displaying suspicious symptoms, such as a high temperature (38°C/100.4°F), cough, breathing difficulties, or fatigue, will be required to follow the instructions of the relevant authorities.
6. They have to follow the arrangements of those serving duties at the mausoleum.
7. Those paying tributes must queue at least six feet apart, with only ten people permitted at a time. Inside the mausoleum, they are also required to maintain the same sixfoot distance.
8. All the visitors must strictly follow the COVID-19 health notices and information released by the Ministry of Health.
9. Elderly people and those with chronic illnesses are not allowed to visit.
10. Those suffering from fever, cough, difficulty breathing or fatigue are not allowed to visit.
11. For group tributes, a time limit of no more than ten minutes is recommended.

Ladies and Gentleman who Come as Martyr's Mausoleum

Taking drones to museum and flying around the museum highly prohibited

" Notice for those who come to Martyr's Mausoleum "

You are respectfully requested not to carry along the Following items into the Martyr's Mausoleum

Mobile Phones	Flower bouquet, Flower Wreaths and flower baskets
Various kinds of Flags	Vinyls
Various kinds of Bags	Bottles and Cans
Cameras	PVC and Steelpipes used as poles for Flags
Matches/ Matchboxes	Ball Pens

YGH opens weekly one-stop geriatric clinic



Elderly patients receive treatment at the Geriatric Outpatient Department (Geriatric OPD) at Yangon General Hospital.

THE Geriatric Outpatient Department (Geriatric OPD) at Yangon General Hospital provides comprehensive healthcare for older adults from 9 am to

noon every Wednesday.

The clinic offers a one-stop service, enabling elderly patients to receive consultations from specialists in eight fields, includ-

ing general medicine, diabetes and endocrinology, orthopaedics, rehabilitation medicine, dermatology, dentistry, ear, nose and throat (ENT), and mental health, at a single visit.

Patients also have access to essential laboratory tests and diagnostic imaging during the same visit.

Health experts say a new weekly multidisciplinary clinic has streamlined care for elderly patients and their families. Seniors aged 60 and older account for a significant portion of Yangon General Hospital’s daily outpatients. — TWA/MKKS

NATIONAL

Amyotha Hluttaw Reviews Infrastructure, Recovery and Tax Reform Proposals

THE Amyotha Hluttaw held the 14th day of its second regular session in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, during which lawmakers questioned the government on infrastructure, post-conflict rehabilitation and humanitarian assistance, while several MPs backed a proposal calling for stronger tax administration and tougher anti-corruption measures. The session was attended by 205 of the 209 eligible MPs.

U Maung Sein, MP for Taninthayi Region Constituency 3, asked whether the government planned to build a reinforced concrete bridge to replace a deteriorating village bridge

linking Ohnpinkwin and Thaechaung village-tracts in Yebyu Township, Dawei District. Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Kyaw Swa Oo said the bridge is located on a road managed by the ministry. He noted that a detailed on-site assessment is currently difficult due to security conditions but said the project would be considered in a future fiscal year once the area becomes stable and funding is available.

U Khe Chain, MP for Sagaing Region Constituency 1, asked whether the remaining 17-mile section of the Nanyun-Pangsaung road under the Ministry of Border Affairs would



The 14th-day meeting of the second regular session of the Third Amyotha Hluttaw is underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, presided over by Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe.

be transferred to the Ministry of Construction. The deputy minister said most sections of the road had already been transferred, while the remaining stretch could also be handed over following

coordination between the two ministries because it forms part of the Namma-ti-Tanai-Pangsaung (Ledo) Road linking Myanmar and India, an important international transport corridor. MP Dr Naing Lin for

Kayah State Constituency 9 asked whether the government would work with international aid organizations on strategic reconstruction plans and accelerate job creation and economic recovery

in the conflict-affected state. Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Than Soe said more than K3.2 billion had been allocated for displaced people in Kayah State in 2025, while funds had also been provided to reopen Loikaw University. He added that vocational training, loans for agriculture and livestock, assistance for small businesses, and measures to revive tourism were underway. Although no joint strategic reconstruction plan had been drawn up with international organizations, they could participate in government-led projects under existing procedures. **SEE PAGE 5**

Hluttaw Speaker presses education panel to revamp laws, boost vocational training



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi meets the Education Promotion Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Yi met with members of the Education Promotion Committee yesterday afternoon at the Hluttaw Committee Building (I-13) to discuss the strategic development of the nation's education sector, emphasizing the need to review key education laws and prioritize Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

Addressing the committee, Speaker U Khin Yi commended its members for thoroughly preparing their objectives, plans and strategic goals. He

said that, given the broad scope of parliamentary work, committees must adopt a visionary approach to effectively support the Hluttaw. Describing committees as the pillars of the Hluttaw, he noted that the success of the legislature's overall work depends largely on their performance.

He also said that education is fundamental to national development, urging the committee to adopt a broad and analytical approach in carrying out its responsibilities and to focus on strengthening the foundation of the basic

education system.

Highlighting legislative priorities, the Speaker said there are currently nine laws under the committee's purview. He instructed the committee to review them and prioritize amendments according to urgency. In particular, he called for a priority review of the 2014 National Education Law, stressing that it should be carefully amended to reflect the country's current needs.

The Speaker also said the State is prioritizing access to education for all school-aged children. To support children who have dropped out of school or remain outside the formal education system, the Hluttaw has raised questions and submitted motions calling for comprehensive school surveys. He also emphasized the importance of narrowing the gap between education and the labour market by strengthening Technical

and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), which he described as essential to national development.

Speaker U Khin Yi further suggested that incorporating ethnic languages into the basic education curriculum could promote friendship and understanding among the country's ethnic groups and contribute to the national peace process. He welcomed the committee's efforts to draft comprehensive legislation on teachers' welfare and measures to prevent violence in schools.

In conclusion, the Speaker urged the committee to work closely with the State to advance reforms in the education sector and address current challenges through practical and effective approaches. After the meeting, he greeted the committee chairman, secretary and members individually. — MNA/TH

Workshop discusses socioeconomic benefits of decent migration

THE Ministry of Labour held a workshop titled "Towards Socio-Economic Development of Migrant Workers and Their Families through Dignified Migration" yesterday morning at the Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The event was attended by Overseas Employment Supervisory Committee Chairman Union Minister for Labour U Khin Maung Soe, Vice-Chairman Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Phone Myat, committee members, representatives

from UMFCCI, private banks, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Association (MOEAA).

Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe delivered an address, followed by the presentation of certificates of appreciation to ten licensed foreign employment agencies recognized for their contributions to family remittances that support national economic development. **SEE PAGE 5**



Union Ministers and dignitaries view the exhibits displayed at the yesterday's workshop in Nay Pyi Taw.

NATIONAL

Pyithu Hluttaw Tackles Sectoral Development ...

FROM PAGE 1

Dr Nanda Hla Myint from the Kalaw Constituency also raised questions regarding the free road, water and air transportation services for the government staff or whether there is priority for that sector, and Deputy Minister U Aung Myaing replied that the government employees were charged only 75 per cent of the ticket fare for travel by train when they submitted MO, but were charged the full fare since 1 September 2016. He added that airlines operate on commercial investment, while Myanmar National Airlines has operated outside the State budget since the 2023-2024 financial year and relies solely on its own revenue.

The travel expenses incurred by civil servants are reimbursed in accordance with the regional expenses, and the relevant department provides expenses in pursuit of the expenditure

of the financial year. Therefore, such action is provided by the government. Moreover, daily allowances and accommodation expenses are provided in accordance with the Myanmar Travel Allowance Rules.

Replying to a question from U Maung Shwe for the Loikaw Constituency on the resumption of Myanmar National Airlines flights between Loikaw and Yangon, Deputy Minister for Transport U Tun Lu said repairs to Loikaw Airport had been completed, and the airport was ready for operations. Following confirmation from the Kayah State government that security conditions were suitable, Myanmar National Airlines would expedite the necessary preparations and resume the service.

For the question from Daw Khin Ni Ni Aung for the Kawkaik Constituency, the deputy minister said surveys would be carried out during the coming open

season, and dredging would be proposed under the Kayah State government's capital budget for the 2027-2028 financial year.

Regarding the question from U San Myint for the Myittha Constituency, the deputy minister said that about 2,400 feet of concrete riverbank protection works are needed to protect Kharutoke East and West villages in Myittha Township from erosion, at an estimated cost of K2.55 billion. Detailed surveys will be conducted, and the project will be prioritized under the Mandalay Region government's 2027-2028 financial year, subject to funding approval.

For the question from U Aung Myo Than for the Kawhmu Constituency, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Bo Bo Kyaw replied that dredging the 15,900-foot canal from Canal 2 in Kawhmu to Htamma-naing Village would protect

650 acres of farmland from flooding and enable the expansion of summer paddy cultivation by 449 acres. The project will be implemented subject to funding availability in the 2026-2027 or 2027-2028 financial year.

The deputy minister also replied to the question of U Aung Zaw Lin from the Thanatpin Constituency, saying the Kyaphyuyo Creek in Thanatpin Township needs to be re-dredged due to siltation. Funding will be sought under the 2027-2028 Union budget or other appropriate funding sources, and the project will proceed subject to fund approval.

For the question from Daw Khin Than Myint for the Ngaputaw Constituency, Deputy Minister U Bo Bo Kyaw said three of Ngaputaw Township's 13 damaged sluice gates will be repaired in the 2026-2027 financial year, while the remaining 10 will be repaired in phases in the coming years, subject

to funding. Routine maintenance will also continue annually.

Regarding the question of U Aung Naing from the Waw Constituency, Deputy Minister U Bo Bo Kyaw said the Hteintabin-Winkadet Creek in Waw Township will be proposed for dredging under the 2027-2028 Union budget, subject to funding availability. A feasibility study to construct a salt-water control gate will also be carried out.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Ye Tun Win responded that Myanmar is expanding the aquaculture sector through systematic management, technical support, increased production, value-added processing, market expansion, and the promotion of private investments. He added that 11 factories are producing 13 types of value-added aquatic products, which are exported to more than 30 countries, while new aquaculture zones will be developed to boost domestic supply and exports.

Dr Shwe Pyi Soe for the Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Constituency then submitted a proposal recommending improvements to the tax system, including the simplification of tax filing procedures, the introduction of a digital taxpayer card using a "My Myanmar" barcode system, automated tax collection, and greater accuracy in banking and financial transactions. The proposal was seconded by U Tin Moe Aung (aka) Nay Shine from the Yankin Constituency.

The Speaker sought the approval of the Hluttaw to discuss the proposal, and as the Hluttaw agreed, the proposal was accepted for debate. Members wishing to participate in the discussion were invited to register their names.

The Pyithu Hluttaw will continue its 21st-day session on 10 July. — MNA/KTZH

Thanlyin's RBF pig farming activities inspected

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Yangon Region, Thanlyin District, inspected income-generating pig farming activities implemented under the Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project in Kayinseik Village, Thanlyin Township, yesterday.

Director U Kyi Saw of the Yangon Region Department of Rural Development, the Thanlyin District Department of Rural Development head and project staff inspected the raising of 20 pigs under four groups, with



Officials inspect the pig farming project in Thanlyin Township.

five pigs per group, as well as the LY breed sow farming activities. He met RBF members and discussed pig feed prices, livestock production costs and selling

prices, and coordinated necessary arrangements based on village requirements.

The Rural Business Fund (RBF) Project aims to provide necessary cap-

ital for agricultural and livestock producers as well as small and medium-sized entrepreneurs in rural areas and enable livelihood activities to be carried out through a group-based system.

Kayinseik Village is implementing family income-generating pig farming activities through a group-based system using K30 million from the RBF Project, with the Aung Mingala Group, Pwint Lin Group, Aung Myint Kyaw Kyar Group and Thar Yar Aye Group participating. — Cho Than Nyunt (Rural)



The archway with welcoming signage at the entrance to Sagaing Region.

Sagaing pushes firms to repay K6B COVID debt

THE Sagaing Region Government has urged 390 companies and businesses that received loans from the COVID-19 Fund to repay more than K6 billion in outstanding debt as soon as possible. The businesses and companies with overdue repayments are located in the townships of Monywa, Sagaing, Shwebo, Kalay, Katha, Kawlin, Tamu, Kyunhla, Indaw, Wetlet, Ayadaw, KhinU, Kanbalu, Myinmu, Mingin, Wuntho, Pinlebu, Htigyaing and Depayin in Sagaing Region. — TWA/KNN

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

NATIONAL

Amyotha Hluttaw Reviews Infrastructure ...

FROM PAGE 3

MP Daw Theingi Win Shwe for Sagaing Region Constituency 9 asked whether the government would continue providing food and shelter assistance to conflict-affected residents returning to Htigyaing and Katha townships. Dr Than Soe said displaced people in Sagaing Region had received monthly cash assistance in 2025, while returning residents were also provided with temporary shelters and relief supplies. He added that further assistance would continue through local administrative bodies under existing procedures.

The Amyotha Hluttaw also approved amendments to the Anti-Online Fraud Bill before deciding that

30 disputed provisions between the two houses of Parliament would be referred to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for final deliberation.

The debate then continued on a proposal submitted by Daw Soe Soe Myint, MP for Mon State Constituency 12, urging the Union Government to strengthen tax collection and combat corruption.

Supporting the proposal were Daw Aye Chan Mon (Mon State Constituency 6), Daw Malar San (Shan State Constituency 2), Sai Win Khine (Shan State Constituency 10), Daw Naw Florence Danny (Kayah State Constituency 10), Daw Zin Pa Pa Oo (Ayeyawady Region Constituency 11) and U Soe Kyi (Taninthayi Re-

gion Constituency 11).

The MPs called for broader digitalization of the tax system, streamlined procedures, the adoption of electronic payment platforms, enhanced transparency in tax administration, stronger safeguards against corruption, robust whistleblower protections, and public disclosure of tax revenue expenditures to strengthen compliance and build public trust.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Lin Dwe announced that debate on the motion would continue with the remaining MPs, followed by the Union-level organization's response and the parliamentary decision on the 15th day of the session, scheduled for 10 July. — MNA/ST

Rehabilitation plans discussed in Chin State



Deputy Minister U Myo Myint and state-level departmental officials discuss Chin State's rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in Haka yesterday.

DEPUTY Minister for Construction U Myo Myint and members of the Chin State Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Committee met state-level departmental officials in Haka yesterday to discuss rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts.

The deputy minister stressed the need for close coordination across all sectors, with priority given to rehabilitation and reconstruction in Tedim, Tonzang and Falam. He highlighted the restoration and construction of government offices,

hospitals and schools, as well as the development of MSMEs, cooperative systems, agriculture and livestock, adding that the committee would work closely with state departments to support the development of the three townships.

Departmental officials reported on completed work and ongoing plans. The deputy minister called for the timely implementation of projects and instructed officials to work closely with religious leaders and township and village administrators to coordinate and supervise rehabilitation efforts. — MNA/MKKS

Mongton's Mya Sein Yaung village project loans disbursed

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, Shan State (East), Mongton District, conducted a ceremony to disburse revolving funds under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project in Napakaw Village, Mongton Township, yesterday.

Mongton Township Department of Rural Development Head U Min Oo and project staff explained that the revolving funds were provided under the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project with the objec-



A village representative receives the fund disbursement in Mongton, Shan State (East), on 8 July 2026.

tives of creating employment opportunities and increasing family incomes for rural people in Napakaw Village, as well as implementing village development activities with the increased revolving

funds. Officials then explained project activities, interest rates, repayment periods and rules and regulations to be followed, and handed over K56.5 million in revolving funds to members of the village project

committee.

Napakaw Village is implementing family income-generating activities through a group-based system using K56.5 million from the Mya Sein Yaung Village Project. Under the supervision of the Township Department of Rural Development, members of the project committee disbursed the 13th round of revolving loans to a total of 32 members, including 30 people engaged in agricultural activities, one person in trading and one person in production activities. — Karan (Rural)

Workshop discusses socioeconomic benefits of decent migration

FROM PAGE 3

At the workshop, experts discussed safe migration, measures to prevent human resource loss, strategies for developing skilled

workers, the expansion of labour markets, and ways to promote socioeconomic progress through migrant workers' remittances. — MNA/MKKS

422 Sagaing Families Get MRCS Quake Relief

FROM PAGE 1

The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), in collaboration with its international Red Cross partners, distributed relief supplies to 422 households in downtown Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region.

The assistance formed part of the MRCS's disaster relief programme for

earthquake-affected communities, supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the German Red Cross and the Korean Red Cross.

The relief items included blankets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats and collapsible water containers. — ASH/MKKS

UNICEF Myanmar issues flood preparedness advisory

FROM PAGE 1

UNICEF recommended preparing a family emergency plan, keeping an emergency bag with essential supplies, and stor-

ing important documents in waterproof containers. Families should evacuate immediately to higher ground when instructed by authorities, keep children

away from floodwaters, and provide emotional support to children after the emergency.

It also warned that floodwaters may be deep-

er, faster-flowing and more contaminated than they appear, urging people to monitor reliable weather forecasts and follow official instructions. — ASH/KNN

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NATIONAL

239 Chinese nationals transferred over online scam links



Immigration officials oversee the deportation of undocumented foreign entrants.

A total of 239 Chinese nationals involved in online gambling, online scams (telecom fraud) and other criminal activities in the Myawady-Shwe Kok-

ko area of Kayin State have been handed over to the relevant authorities through the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Bridge II in accordance with legal procedures.

From 30 January 2025 to 8 July 2026, a total of 14,731 foreign nationals who illegally entered Myawady Township were detained and investigated. Of these, 13,811 were systematically deported and transferred to their

respective countries via Thailand in accordance with legal procedures.

Of the remaining 920 foreign nationals awaiting transfer, 709 have been prosecuted under relevant laws, including immigration and narcotics-related legislation. The remaining 211 are awaiting transfer to their respective countries and are being properly detained and well cared for. — MNA/KZL

Illegal scam building demolished in Shwe Kokko

A six-storey illegal building used for online scams and gambling activities in the Shwe Kokko area of Myawady Township, Kayin State, has been systematically demolished, bringing the total number of demolished illegal buildings to 70.

Authorities have been conducting joint operations to demolish illegal buildings and destroy equipment used for

online scams and gambling activities in the Shwe Kokko and KK Park areas. Of the 77 targeted buildings in Shwe Kokko, 57 have been demolished using machinery, while 20 have been destroyed through controlled demolition.

The remaining seven illegal buildings will also be demolished systematically, according to reports. — MNA/KZL

GVP funds disbursed in Sinbaungwe

THE Department of Rural Development, under the Ministry of Cooperatives and Rural Development, successfully disbursed the “Green Village Project” revolving funds in Hmwan Nyaungbintha village, Magway Region, yesterday. The project aims to empower rural residents to engage in small-scale agricultural, livestock, and trading businesses.

Daw Ei Ei Mon, Acting Township Officer of the Sinbaungwe Township Department of Rural Development, explained the objectives and benefits of the Green Village

Project. She also detailed the rules and regulations outlined in the project manual, including interest rates and loan repayment terms, before officially handing over the revolving fund of K39.69 million to the village project committee members.

Following the handover, under the close supervision of the Township Department of Rural Development staff, the village project committee members disbursed the funds directly to 132 beneficiaries. The breakdown of the K39.69 million in low-interest loans is as follows: Agriculture:



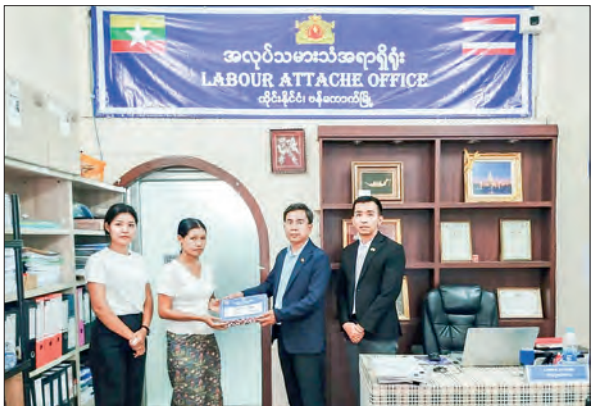
Village representatives receive funds in Sinbaungwe Township.

K23.87 million for 71 beneficiaries; Livestock: K12.18 million for 49 beneficiaries; Trading: K2.04 million for seven beneficiaries; and Vocational

Businesses: K1.6 million for five beneficiaries.

The funds were successfully distributed to all recipients on the same day. — Nyein Thu (Rural)

Labour Attaché secures insurance for migrant’s death



This photo displays the insurance claim of 1.1 million baht being handed over to the worker’s mother.

FOR a Myanmar migrant worker who died in a car accident in Thailand in August 2025, the Labour Attaché Office said it helped in claiming the insurance cover worth 1.1million baht from a private insurer.

And it transferred the insurance payment to his mother at the office on 7 July, it said.

Myanmar migrant workers are advised to contact the Labour Offices during office hours if their rights are violated. More information can be obtained from their call centres at 02 0030015; Labour Attaché (Bangkok) at 06 18108454; Labour Officer (Bangkok) at 06 52206952; Labour Attaché (Maesot) at 06 52206953; Labour Officer (Chang Mai) at 09 45866607 and Labour Officer (Ranong) at 06 34818121. — MT/ZS

Myanma Railways urges clean, disciplined travel

MYANMA Railways (MR) has urged train passengers to maintain cleanliness and strictly adhere to travel regulations during their journeys.

Myanma Railways (MR) has released train schedules featuring new carriages designed to provide comfort, safety, and affordability. However, the behaviour of some undisciplined passengers has frequently irritated fellow travellers.

Myanma Railways (MR) has advised passengers to refrain from spitting betel nut to ensure a clean and pleasant journey, and to avoid placing their legs on seats to prevent discomfort to others. In addition, passengers are urged to keep phone



MR urges train passengers to maintain cleanliness and follow travel rules.

conversations low, avoid playing sounds or speaking loudly, and dispose of litter only in designated areas.

Regarding MR’s rules, people commented that “MR should monitor whether they follow these rules or not. It is better to impose fines and frequent raids”. — MT/ZS

Monsoon paddy loan under REZ reaches over 310,000 acres in 55 townships



This image captures a thriving paddy field. **PHOTO: KANU**

A total of 61 participating companies in the Rice Export Zone programme have started distributing loans, reaching 313,937 acres of monsoon paddy across 55 townships, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF). Farmers participating in the Rice Ex-

port Zone who meet the specified criteria will be provided with a loan of K750,000 per acre, comprising K300,000 from the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank, K200,000 from the participating export companies and K250,000 from the National Economic

Promotion Fund.

Those interested in participating in the REZ programme must have at least 300 adjacent acres. MRF has invited interested individuals to coordinate with the MRF.

The REZ project, under the public-private partnership between the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Myanmar Rice Federation, will be carried out in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Bago, Yangon, and Ayeyawady regions, with a view to exporting premium rice in the 2026-2027 monsoon paddy season. A total of 350,000 acres are designated in the REZ.

Rice export companies, in collaboration with regional, district, and township Rice Export Zone Supervisory Committees, are conducting field visits to provide initial cultivation loans to farmers participating in the Rice Export Zone in the respective townships.

The Good Brother's Co Ltd held an event to disburse cultivation loans and inputs at the GBS Agricultural Service Centre in Kyaunggong Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 5 July 2026, attended by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Aye Kyaw, regional ministers and the president of the Myanmar Rice Federation. — NN/KK

CBM injects over US\$8,400 into CMP companies

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) pumped over US\$8,400 into CMP companies on 7 July.

On 6 July, CBM sold over \$1.4 million purchased from CMP companies to edible oil importers, along with more than \$11,400 to CMP firms.

On 3 July, CBM sold over \$595,500 to edible oil importers, while on 2 July it provided more than \$114,400 to edible oil importers, \$39,600 to CMP companies, and \$3,700 for non-trade transactions.

Earlier, on 1 July, CBM sold \$3.3 million to edible oil importers and more than \$21,228 to CMP companies.

CBM injected over \$35 million, purchased from CMP companies, into the foreign exchange market in June.

CBM pumped over \$51 million and 1.2 million baht into the foreign exchange market in May. CBM trans-

acted over \$70 million and 28.8 million baht in April.

CBM injected over \$35 million, 34 million baht and over three million yuan in the foreign exchange market in February and over \$43 million, 65 million baht and over four million yuan in January 2026.

CBM injects foreign currencies into the foreign exchange market to regulate currency devaluation. According to CBM's notification on 15 March 2024, it has been collaborating with law enforcement agencies to combat and prosecute those who attempt to manipulate the currency market under the existing laws.

The Central Bank of Myanmar has authorized private banks to freely conduct online foreign exchange trading at market rates, based on supply and demand, effective 5 December 2023. — NN/KK

Trading Amount and Forex Rate in the Market on 8 July 2026

	US\$	Chinese yuan	Thai baht	India rupee
Exchange rates	3,653.00~3,669.00	555.30~558.70	125.30~125.70	43.60
Trading amount in the market	17,650,026.14	12,177,662.19	67,858,165.00	
The amount sold by CBM to the market				

THE foreign currency amount traded in the foreign exchange market was for the import of fuel, pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical raw materials, consumer goods, industrial raw materials, wheat, animal feed,

agricultural equipment, construction equipment, and telecommunications equipment. The CMP sector received US\$2,208.00 from the revenue of the CMP sector. — MNA



US dollars spotted at the Forex counter.

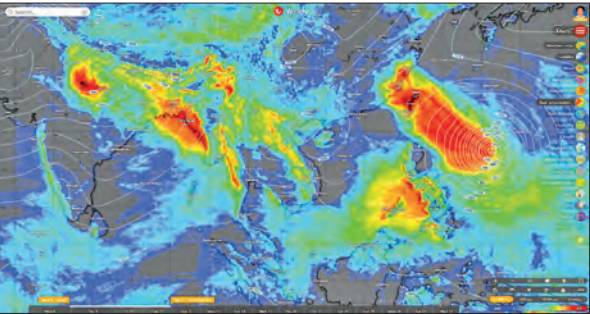
The people are urged to receive vaccination of COVID-19 without fail as full-time vaccination of COVID-19 and receiving booster shots can effectively mitigate infection of the virus, severe suffering from the disease and increase of death rate due to the disease.

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MPA warns of rising Yangon tides



Three-day rainfall forecast maps from the models (ECMWF, GFS, ICON) of the WINDY App.

THE Myanma Port Authority has issued a warning for residents living along the banks of the Yangon River to

make preparations due to higher-than-normal tides expected from 14 to 18 July. During this period, tides are forecast to

reach between 20.01 feet and 20.70 feet above the chart datum.

While the tide levels are not considered alarming, this notification has been issued to ensure that citizens residing along the riverbanks are aware and can take precautionary measures.

According to historical records, the Yangon River reached a record high of 22 feet in 2014 and 2015. However, because the water level is expect-

ed to exceed the baseline of 20 feet, residents in riverbanks and low-lying regions are advised to be vigilant.

In a similar update, meteorologist U Win Nang has issued a three-day rainfall forecast from 8 to 11 July with the designation of heavy rainfall zones (Yellow/Orange Zones) for Ayeyawady, Bago, and Taninthayi regions, as well as Mon and Kayin states, and Yangon Region. — TWA/ZN

Crack down on online scam and gambling activities

ONLINE scams and gambling activities have so far destroyed the socioeconomic lives of the people in many countries worldwide. But these activities do not stop their attempts to trap the victims. Meanwhile, governments and authorities from many countries are striving to combat online scams and gambling activities in various ways and means.

Myanmar has been beefing up its efforts to combat online scams and gambling activities, most of which occur in border regions and remote areas of the nation, in cooperation with law enforcement forces from neighbouring countries.

Security forces are serving defence and security duties in their assigned areas in addition to combatting online scams and gambling activities with the sacrifice of life and limbs. At the same time, the government is actively cooperating with neighbouring and regional countries and international organizations to expose and arrest foreign manipulators in the online scam hubs in order to take severe action against them.

Moreover, the Myanmar government and Tatmadaw are combing the areas to arrest online scammers and gamblers in their bases day and night. On the other hand, the authorities arrested foreign nationals who illegally entered Myawady, Myanmar, through illegal border routes. During the period from 30 January 2025 to 7 July 2026, authorities detained 14,731 illegal foreign entrants, 13,572 of whom have been released to relevant countries under the law through Thailand. Among the remaining 1,159 foreign nationals, 709 illegal foreign entrants faced legal action under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Hence, it is ready to release the remaining 450 foreign detainees to their mother countries.

Security forces are serving defence and security duties in their assigned areas in addition to combatting online scams and gambling activities with the sacrifice of life and limbs. At the same time, the government is actively cooperating with neighbouring and regional countries and international organizations to expose and arrest foreign manipulators in the online scam hubs in order to take severe action against them.

IN INTERNATIONAL relations, state visits represent far more than ceremonial exchanges between leaders. They symbolize mutual respect, trust, friendship, and a shared commitment to strengthening cooperation. Good-neighbourly relations, mutual understanding, and long-standing friendship are invaluable assets that contribute to peace, stability, and prosperity among nations. In today's rapidly changing global environment, countries increasingly recognize that strong diplomatic partnerships are essential for addressing common challenges and promoting sustainable development. Against this backdrop, the recent State Visit of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Lao People's Democratic Republic marks a significant milestone in the history of relations between the two neighbouring countries.

On 3 July, the leaders of Myanmar and Laos met in Vientiane, the capital of Laos, to discuss matters of mutual interest and to further strengthen bilateral cooperation. The visit took place at the invitation of His Excellency Mr Thongloun Sisoulith, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. This important diplomatic engagement demonstrated the close ties that have existed between the two countries for decades. It also reflected their shared determination to expand cooperation in political, economic, social, and cultural fields. The successful discussions and agreements reached during the visit are expected to benefit not only the governments of the two countries but also their peoples.

The State Visit is particularly noteworthy because it was the first state-level visit undertaken by Myanmar's President to an ASEAN member country following the country's recent political developments, including the holding of a multiparty general

Myanmar-Laos State Visit: A New Milestone in Bilateral Relations and Regional Cooperation

By Ms Moon

election and the formation of a new government. As a result, the visit carried special diplomatic significance. It provided an opportunity for Myanmar to reaffirm its commitment to regional cooperation and to strengthen its role within the ASEAN community. At the same time, it allowed Laos to demonstrate its support for continued engagement and constructive cooperation with Myanmar.

Myanmar and Laos share many characteristics that naturally bring them closer together. Although they are neighbouring countries connected by geography, their relationship extends beyond physical proximity. The two nations possess similar cultural traditions, religious values, and historical experiences. Buddhism plays an important role in the lives of the people of both countries, influencing their customs, moral values, and social practices. Such cultural similarities have contributed to a sense of familiarity and mutual respect between the peoples of Myanmar and Laos for generations.

The friendship between the peoples living along the border regions is especially remarkable. For many years, communities on both sides have maintained close social and cultural connections. In the Shan language, the expression "Pi Naung Kan" is used to describe the relationship between the two peoples, while in the Lao language, the term "Phi Nuan Kan" conveys a similar meaning. Both expressions refer to brothers

and sisters, highlighting the deep sense of kinship and friendship that exists between the neighbouring communities. These people-to-people connections serve as an important foundation for broader diplomatic relations and contribute significantly to mutual understanding and cooperation.

The diplomatic relationship between Myanmar and Laos has developed steadily over more than seventy years. Throughout this period, both countries have consistently maintained friendly relations and supported one another in various regional and international forums. Despite changes in the global political landscape, the friendship between Myanmar and Laos has remained strong and stable. Such continuity reflects the mutual trust that has been carefully cultivated by successive generations of leaders and citizens. The recent State Visit therefore represents not the beginning of a new relationship but rather the continuation and strengthening of a long-standing partnership.

One of the most important outcomes of the visit was the commitment to expand cooperation in a variety of strategic sectors. The two countries agreed to deepen collaboration in defence, trade, tourism, manufacturing, education, healthcare, and energy development. Cooperation in defence can contribute to regional security and stability, while expanded trade relations can create new economic opportunities for businesses and citizens in both



Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Lao Prime Minister Mr Sonexay Siphandone in Vientiane on 3 July 2026. **PHOTO: GNLM**

countries. Increased collaboration in tourism may encourage greater cultural exchange, attract investment, and generate employment opportunities. Similarly, partnerships in education and healthcare can improve human resource development and enhance the quality of life for people in both nations.

Energy cooperation is particularly important in the current global context. Around the world, countries are facing increasing challenges related to energy security, sustainable development, and climate change. By working together in the field of electricity and energy development, Myanmar and Laos can support economic growth while addressing the needs of their populations. Such cooperation may also contribute to broader regional efforts

to promote sustainable and environmentally responsible development.

A notable achievement during the visit was the signing of Memoranda of Understanding concerning the establishment of sister-capital relations between Nay Pyi Taw and Vientiane, as well as cooperation in tourism. These agreements are expected to strengthen institutional links between the two capitals and promote greater interaction between local governments, businesses, educational institutions, and civil society organizations. Sister-city and sister-capital arrangements have proven successful in many parts of the world because they encourage practical cooperation and direct exchanges among citizens. By establishing such relationships, Myanmar and Laos are

creating additional channels for friendship and collaboration at multiple levels of society.

The tourism cooperation agreement is equally significant. Tourism not only contributes to economic growth but also promotes cultural understanding and goodwill among peoples. Both Myanmar and Laos possess rich cultural heritage, ancient religious sites, beautiful natural landscapes, and unique traditions that attract visitors from around the world. Enhanced tourism cooperation can facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices while increasing opportunities for economic development in local communities.

Another meaningful gesture during the visit was Myanmar's donation of domestically produced mosquito-repellent

medicines to Laos. While modest in scale, this humanitarian contribution symbolizes the spirit of friendship, compassion, and mutual assistance that characterizes the relationship between the two countries. Acts of goodwill such as these strengthen trust and demonstrate a willingness to support one another during times of need. In international relations, such gestures often carry symbolic importance that extends beyond their material value.

The visit also highlighted the importance of mutual support within the ASEAN framework. As members of ASEAN, Myanmar and Laos share a commitment to regional cooperation, dialogue, and peaceful development. Laos expressed its continued support for Myanmar's efforts toward political reform, national reconciliation, peacebuilding, and the strengthening of the rule of law. Such support reflects the principles of friendship and constructive engagement that underpin ASEAN cooperation. It also contributes to confidence-building and regional stability at a time when many parts of the world are experiencing uncertainty and conflict.

The broader international environment further underscores the significance of strong bilateral relationships. In recent years, the global economy has faced numerous challenges, including geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, inflationary pressures, public health concerns, and the lingering effects of economic slowdowns. Developing countries, in particular, have had to navigate these challenges

while pursuing economic growth and social development. Under such circumstances, cooperation among neighbouring countries becomes increasingly important. By working together, Myanmar and Laos can enhance economic resilience, expand trade opportunities, attract investment, and support sustainable development goals.

Looking ahead, the future of Myanmar-Laos relations appears promising. The foundations of friendship established over many decades provide a strong basis for further cooperation. Through continued dialogue, mutual respect, and practical collaboration, the two countries can achieve shared objectives and contribute positively to regional development. Their partnership demonstrates how neighbouring nations can build strong and mutually beneficial relationships based on common interests, cultural affinity, and a commitment to peaceful coexistence.

In brief, the recent State Visit represents a historic milestone in Myanmar-Laos relations. It reflects the enduring friendship between the two countries, strengthens cooperation across multiple sectors, and reinforces their commitment to regional peace and prosperity. The agreements signed during the visit, together with the spirit of mutual trust and goodwill displayed by both sides, will undoubtedly contribute to deeper bilateral ties in the years ahead.

As Myanmar and Laos continue to work together, their relationship has the potential to serve as a model of good-neighbourliness, constructive partnership, and regional cooperation within ASEAN and beyond. The visit therefore stands as an important step towards a future characterized by greater understanding, stronger friendship, and shared prosperity for the peoples of both nations.

Dementia: Understanding the Journey to the End of Life

By U Khin Maung Myint

A Syndrome, not a Single Disease

Dementia is not a disease in itself but a syndrome — a col-

lection of symptoms resulting from damage to the brain. The causes are diverse, including Alzheimer's disease, vascular

dementia caused by strokes and mini-strokes, Lewy body dementia, Frontotemporal dementia, repeated head injuries, excessive alcohol consumption, and several less common conditions. Although the causes differ, they

all lead to progressive brain injury and loss of mental function. **More Than Memory Loss**

Most people associate dementia with forgetfulness, but memory loss is only one part of the illness. Behavioural and psy-

chological symptoms — such as agitation, aggression, wandering, hallucinations, anxiety, disturbed sleep, and loss of insight — often place the greatest burden on families and carers. These symptoms are frequently the

reason specialist care becomes necessary.

The Final Stage

As dementia advances, independence gradually disappears. Speech becomes limited, walking becomes difficult, and eventually, many people become completely dependent on others. Loss of bladder and bowel control is common and requires skilled nursing

and social care to preserve comfort, dignity, and skin integrity.

Swallowing also becomes impaired. Eating may take much longer, coughing during meals becomes frequent, and some patients eventually refuse food or drink altogether. This stage is deeply distressing for families, who naturally fear that their loved one is starving.

The Difficult Decisions

One of the most challenging questions concerns artificial feeding through tubes. While families often hope this will prolong life, research has shown that tube feeding in advanced dementia rarely improves survival, prevents aspiration pneumonia, or restores quality of life.

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ARTICLE/SCI/TECH:
WORLD

Ancient rocks show water shaped Earth 3.1 bln years ago

Water travelled deep beneath Earth's surface in ancient times.

GEOLOGISTS have found new evidence that water was already influencing Earth's interior and volcanic activity more than three billion years ago, based on analysis of some of the planet's oldest volcanic rocks.

The Australian-led study analyzed ancient rocks from the state of Western Australia's Pilbara Craton and found signs that water had travelled deep beneath Earth's surface before helping to generate magmas that formed volcanoes like those found in today's Pacific "Ring of Fire," according to a statement released by Adelaide University on Wednesday. The findings,



Reaching the outcrops requires long traverses off-road through the West Pilbara. The ancient Whundo lavas are scattered across this rugged, sparsely vegetated terrain. Eric Vandenburg. **PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL/CREATIVE COMMONS /CC BY-ND**

published in Nature Communications, suggest that Earth was already undergoing a form of the water-recycling processes

that shape the planet today, despite conditions being dramatically different during the planet's infancy. The research provides

a rare window into Earth's distant past, said Adelaide University geochemist Eric Vandenburg, who led the study. — Xinhua

Chinese scientists turn farm waste into high-value biochar

CHINESE researchers have developed a breakthrough technology for the efficient large-scale production of biochar from agricultural and forestry biomass, an achievement officially recognized by an expert panel.

The technology, developed by the Institute

of Environment under the Hefei Comprehensive National Science Centre after more than a decade of research, enables the conversion of biomass into high-value biochar through a one-step catalytic dry process, Science and Technology Daily reported on Wednesday.

This breakthrough

marks a major step towards transforming agricultural waste into a valuable resource, supporting both environmental sustainability and industrial upgrading.

"China is a major agricultural country with abundant biomass resources. Our goal is to upgrade these resources

into high-value applications that can replace fossil fuels while supporting the nation's carbon peaking and carbon neutrality goals," said Xing Xianjun, the project leader and deputy director of the institute, which is based in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province. — Xinhua

In Mauritania, Imraguen people's desert-ocean paradise under threat

SINCE he was old enough to climb into a boat, Samata Mahmoud has been fishing the vast, dune-lined waters of Mauritania's Banc d'Arguin bay, living a centuries-old lifestyle threatened by climate change and overfishing.

Mahmoud is a member of the Imraguen fishing-based community, a desert people who have spent centuries developing practices in harmony with nature, living in the area where the Sahara meets the Atlantic.

At the first light of dawn the village of Iwik stirs to life, white sails unfurling across the bay's calm waters.

With motors banned, the only vessels gliding about are "lanches",

small sailboats said to have originated from ancient ties with the Spanish Canary Islands.

Banc d'Arguin National Park, which was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1989 and is located on Mauritania's northern coast, is home to some 4,000 Imraguen people, the only population permitted to live within the reserve. The area attracts an abundance of migratory birds, marine mammals and diverse fish species, nourished by cold, nutrient-rich deep-water upwellings and abundant seagrass beds.

The Imraguen have developed a unique method of wading-based fishing, practised only in the summer. — AFP



Samata Mahmoud climbs the mast as he prepares his Imraguen traditional boat, known as "lanche", before sailing at Banc d'Arguin National Park in Iwik, on 25 April 2026. **PHOTO: AFP**

Dementia: Understanding the Journey to ...

FROM PAGE 9

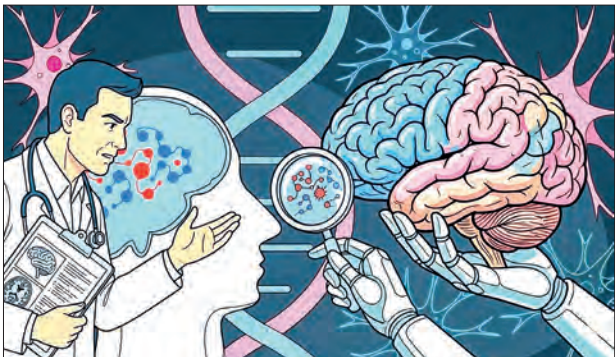
Dementia is a progressive condition affecting the entire brain, not simply the swallowing mechanism.

Instead, healthcare teams increasingly advocate careful hand-feeding where possible, meticulous mouth care, good symptom

control, and compassionate communication with families. Decisions should reflect the person's previously expressed wishes, values, and best interests.

End-of-Life Care: Comfort Before Cure

Advanced dementia should be recognized as



a terminal illness. At this stage, the focus of care gradually shifts from prolonging life at all costs to maximizing comfort and preserving dignity. Good end-of-life care includes effective relief of pain, breathlessness, agitation, and anxiety, while supporting families through one of life's most difficult experiences.

Death from dementia is seldom sudden. It is

usually a gradual process in which the goals of medicine change from curing disease to easing suffering. Compassion, respect, and person-centred care become as important as any medication.

In the end, the measure of a society is not only how long people live, but how gently and respectfully they are cared for when life draws to its natural close.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Actress Mariska Hargitay to host Emmy Awards

MARISKA Hargitay will officially host the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards, which will air live on 14 September, according to a report by The Hollywood Reporter. The Law & Order: Special Victims Unit actress makes history with this appointment, becoming the first host in nearly two decades who is not primarily known for comedic work. The last time the Television Academy selected non-comedians to emcee the event was in 2008, when the five nominees for best reality host—Tom Bergeron, Heidi Klum, Howie Mandel, Jeff Probst, and Ryan Seacrest—shared the hosting duties. — ANI

Kenya’s iconic elephant passes away

KENYA has lost one of its most iconic “super tuskers”, a legendary elephant known as One Tonne Tusk that died of natural causes, wildlife authorities have confirmed. The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), the state-funded wildlife management agency, said on Monday that the massive bull elephant, estimated to be between 50 and 60 years old, roamed the Amboseli-Tsavo ecosystem along the Kenya-Tanzania border. The KWS said One Tonne Tusk was part of a critically rare population of elephants distinguished by their exceptionally large tusks, which grow so long that they sweep the ground. — Xinhua

Blazy continues Chanel’s whimsical couture show



A model at the Chanel show at the Grand palais in Paris. PHOTO: AFP

FRANCO-BELGIAN designer Matthieu Blazy delved into fairy tales as inspiration for his second Chanel Haute Couture show from “Jack and the Beanstalk” to “Goldilocks”. The 42-year-old has won rave reviews from fashion experts since being appointed in December 2024 to start a fresh chapter in the life of the venerable Parisian fashion house.

“Much like the story of (Chanel founder) Gabrielle Chanel, Matthieu Blazy’s tenure at the maison writes itself like a fairy tale,” Elle magazine’s fashion editor wrote on Tuesday. His first collections have been snapped up by buyers worldwide, helping the group report a slight rise in sales last year when many of its peers were struggling with lower demand. — AFP

Sunken wrecks, hot seas threaten fishermen on Italian isle

Lampedusa is a semi-arid Italian island community located closer to North Africa than mainland Italy.

ONCE the beating heart of this Italian island community, fishermen on Lampedusa are under pressure on multiple fronts, from nets ripped by sunken migrant wrecks to a warming Mediterranean Sea. The semi-arid outcrop, closer to North Africa than Italy, is a port of call for people attempting the perilous crossing to Europe, and their cap-sized or abandoned boats dot its emerald depths. “The nets are continuously torn... there are days when you snag two, three (migrant) boats,” 71-year-old fisherman Salvatore Mannino told AFP. “We map the boats, but they move. They can snag one (fishing boat)” then later “another passes and gets caught too,” he said, as he and a fellow fisherman mended a bro-



A fisherman unloads his catch from a fishing boat returning to the port of Lampedusa, after a day at sea on 8 July 2026. PHOTO: AFP

ken net while the sun beat down on the pier. Mannino comes from generations of fishermen, but has told his children they had no future in the sector. The island’s economy is based largely on fishing and tourism, though its fishing fleet has “shrunk by 50 per cent” since the early 2000s, according to Salvatore Martello, head of Lampedusa’s fishing co-operative.

Some from the younger generations have transformed their family boats into pleasure boats for holidaymakers. But fishing “gives Lampedusa’s tourism its identity”, Martello said. — AFP

Japanese picture book author Akiko Hayashi dies at 81

AKIKO Hayashi, picture book author and illustrator of long-selling children’s books including “Miki’s First Errand” and “Good Evening Mr Moon,” has died, the publisher of many of her books said Wednesday. She was 81. Hayashi, who made her debut as a picture book illustrator in 1973 with the book “Kamihikoki” (paper plane) died of pneumonia on 1 July at a hospital in central Japan’s Nagano Prefecture. She is also known for illustrating the first volume of Eiko Kadono’s children’s

novel “Kiki’s Delivery Service,” which was later adapted into the animated film of the same name by director Hayao Miyazaki. Her collaboration with Yoriko Tsutsui, “Miki’s First Errand”, was published in 1976 and gained wide acclaim, remaining a beloved classic for many years.



This photo taken in Tokyo on 8 July 2026 shows a collection of picture books written or illustrated by Akiko Hayashi. PHOTO: KYODO

Other works for which she also wrote the text include “Good Evening Mr Moon,” translated into English, Chinese, Korean and other languages, and “Aki and the Fox.” Also among her celebrated works is “There’s a Hippo in My Bath!,” a whimsical tale written by Kyoko Matsuoka and illustrated by Hayashi. The book, which also appears under the title “I Love to Take a Bath,” won the art prize of the prestigious Sankei Children’s Book Publishing Culture Award. — Kyodo

China takes global lead in fintech patent filings

Global fintech patent filings totalled roughly 120,000 in the 10 years through 2025.

CHINA led the world in both the volume and quality of applications for financial technology (fintech) patents over the last decade, the Nikkei reported Tuesday.

The findings were based on a survey of fintech-related patent applications in 118 countries and regions between 2016 and 2025, jointly conducted by the Nikkei and Tokyo-based research firm Patent Result.

Global fintech patent filings totalled roughly 120,000 in the 10 years through 2025, nearly triple the volume of the prior decade, the survey found.

Applications from Chinese companies in the period accounted for more than 38 per cent of the global total, the largest share by far, with filings up tenfold from the previous

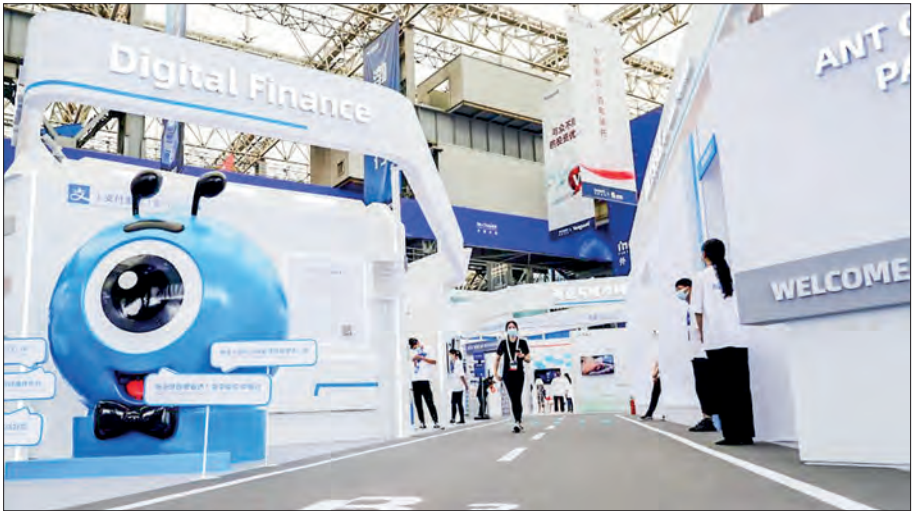


Photo taken on 24 September 2020 shows a view in the innovation exhibition zone of the INCLUSION Fintech Conference held in Shanghai, east China. PHOTO: XINHUA/

decade.

The United States ranked second with a 17 percent share, followed by South Korea at nine per cent and Japan at eight per cent.

Chinese companies also dominated at the corporate level, taking

eight of the top 10 spots by number of fintech patent applications. Industrial and Commercial Bank of China topped the global ranking, followed by Bank of China, China Construction Bank, and Tencent, among others, in the top 10.

The survey found that China's advantage extended beyond sheer volume: the country also took the lead in patent quality, as measured by value and competitiveness scores, with the United States and Japan placing second and third. — Xinhua

India eyes to transform Indonesia's digital landscape

INDIA'S hugely successful digital payments system, which transformed the way millions transfer money instantly using their mobile phones, is

increasingly being viewed as a powerful instrument of economic diplomacy, analysts say.

The country's home-grown digital public infra-

structure, led by its widely used instant payment network, has become one of India's biggest technological success stories and is now attracting growing international interest.

That potential is becoming particularly evident in Indonesia, South-East Asia's largest economy, where officials are examining whether India's low-cost digital payment architecture can be adapted to support the country's own financial and digital transformation goals.

Experts say the growing interest reflects India's expanding

role in exporting digital public infrastructure, enabling partner nations to build efficient, affordable and inclusive payment systems while strengthening economic cooperation and technological ties. India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) will be integrated with Indonesia's payment system, a move expected to make cross-border payments easier and strengthen trade, tourism and business between the two countries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Tuesday during his visit to Jakarta. — ANI



India's hugely successful digital payments system, which transformed the way millions transfer money instantly using their mobile phones, is increasingly being viewed as a powerful instrument of economic diplomacy. PHOTO: REPRESENTATIONAL/UNSPLASH

Caracas airport to reopen to commercial flights

VENEZUELA'S interim President Delcy Rodriguez said on Tuesday the international airport damaged in last month's twin earthquakes would reopen as soon as possible using an alternative runway.

Simon Bolivar International Airport is in La Guaira, north of Caracas and the epicenter of the 24 June quakes that toppled scores of residential buildings and killed nearly 3,700 people.

One of Latin America's worst earthquake disasters

has left thousands of people homeless and thousands more still missing, especially in badly damaged La Guaira, where families are still digging in the rubble.

The airport has been partially open to humanitarian flights. "I ordered the immediate activation of an alternative plan to allow commercial flights to resume as soon as possible using the airport's parallel runway," Rodriguez said in a message on her Telegram account. — AFP



Simon Bolivar International Airport is in La Guaira, north of Caracas and the epicenter of the 24 June quakes that toppled scores of residential buildings and killed nearly 3,700 people. PHOTO: XINHUA/FILE

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan bankruptcies in Jan-June top 5,000 for 1st time

THE number of corporate bankruptcies in Japan in the first half of 2026 involving debts of at least 10 million yen (\$62,000) rose 7.1 per cent from a year earlier to 5,346, topping 5,000 for the first time in 12 years, a credit research company survey showed Wednesday.

The figure comes as a weaker yen has accelerated inflation, putting pressure on the finances of businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, Tokyo Shoko Research said. With a prolonged labour shortage also acting as a headwind, an official of the research firm warned that "the pace of bankruptcies may accelerate from fall". — Kyodo

Singapore's Temasek says it plans to lift AI investments

SINGAPORE state investor Temasek Holdings, one of the world's top funds, said on Wednesday it plans to sharply increase investments in artificial intelligence companies as its net portfolio value rose to another record high.

Temasek said its net portfolio value for the year ended 31 March climbed to Sg\$518 billion (\$401 billion) from Sg\$469 billion the previous year. Total shareholder return was up 10.5 per cent for the year, driven by strong performances from its domestic holdings and divestment gains, it said in a statement. — AFP

Apple loses challenge against EU digital competition rules

APPLE lost its bid to escape digital competition rules after an EU court on Wednesday rejected the US giant's challenge.

Apple appealed the European Union's decision to apply stricter rules known as the Digital Markets Act (DMA) on its operating system iOS and App Store.

"The General Court dismisses all the actions brought by Apple," the Luxembourg-based court said in a statement. "It confirms the designation of Apple as a gatekeeper in relation to the App Store and iOS."

Companies like Apple are designated a so-called "gatekeeper" under the DMA, and their apps are subject to extra scrutiny as "core platform services".

The DMA comes with a list of do's and don'ts for the world's biggest digital platforms in an attempt to keep them in check and create an open online space.

Apple has been one of the law's fiercest critics, calling on the EU to repeal the DMA last year. The company defended its position after the ruling.

"We firmly believe the DMA's mandate goes beyond what is lawful and proportionate, threatening to erode decades of privacy and security protections we've built and leaving our users vulnerable to new risks," the company said. — AFP

China-Laos Railway transports over 20 million tonnes of cargo

CROSS-BORDER freight transported via the China-Laos Railway has exceeded 20 million tonnes since the line opened in December 2021, marking another milestone for this international rail corridor, local railway authorities said on Wednesday.

As of Wednesday morning, the railway had handled more than 20 million tonnes of cross-border cargo and operated over 23,000 cross-border



A freight train departs Jiangyin Port in China's Fuzhou City to Laotian capital Vientiane, 31 August 2022. **PHOTO: CGTN**

freight train trips, according to China Railway Kunming Group Co Ltd.

Since the railway

ly to improve freight organization and enhance transport capacity and efficiency, driving steady growth in cross-border cargo volumes. The railway transported more than one million tonnes of cross-border cargo within its first year of operation. The cumulative volume surpassed five million tonnes by the end of 2023 and exceeded 10 million tonnes by the end of 2024. — Xinhua

Beverage firm Asahi's net profit falls

JAPANESE beverage firm Asahi Group Holdings Ltd said Wednesday its net profit for 2025 fell 36.7 per cent from a year earlier to 121.57 billion yen (\$749

million), hit by shipment disruptions caused by a cyberattack on its systems in September.

Losses and costs related to the cyberattack

pushed the group's operating profit down by 17.0 billion yen, Asahi said.

Operating profit dropped 30.9 per cent to 185.87 billion yen, while

sales fell 1.5 per cent to 2.89 trillion yen as shipments of beer and food were temporarily halted and production was suspended at many of its plants in Japan, the company said. — Kyodo

India's steel consumption rises 8.3% on strong domestic demand

INDIA'S steel sector posted broad-based growth in the first quarter of FY2026-27, with finished steel consumption rising at a faster pace than production, while the country remained a net importer of finished steel, according to data released by the Ministry of Steel on Monday.

The ministry's latest provisional data showed finished steel consumption grew 8.3 per cent year-on-year to 41.6



India's steel sector posted broad-based growth in the first quarter of FY2026-27. **PHOTO: ANI**

million tonnes during April-June 2026, outpacing finished steel produc-

tion, which increased 5.9 per cent to 41.0 million tonnes, indicating continued strength in domestic demand.

On a monthly basis, finished steel consumption rose 7.2 per cent year-on-year to 14.2 million tonnes in June, while finished steel production increased six per cent to 13.8 million tonnes.

The Ministry of Steel said the country's steel sector "recorded growth in Q1 FY2026" across key production and consumption indicators. — ANI

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Yadanapon Cyber City Project Steering Committee

Invitation for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from Prospective Investors for the Development of the Yadanapon Cyber City Project

Yadanapon Cyber City Project, located on the Mandalay-Lashio Road, 21 Miles in Pyin Oo Lwin District, Mandalay Region (land area of 1,400 Acres out of 2,200 Acres) will be developed as a soft-based industry by the private sector investment. Interested local and foreign companies are invited to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI).

EOI Form Selling Date - From 10-7-2026 (Friday) to 10-8-2026 (Monday) (During Office Hours)

Proposal Submission Deadline - 25-8-2026 (Tuesday, 4:00 pm)

Place for Issuance and Submission of EOI Form - Department of Urban and Housing Development, Office No.40, Nay Pyi Taw

(For further information and inquiries Telephone No. 067-3407311 during office hours.)

Yadanapon Cyber City Project Steering Committee
Ministry of Construction

UK regulator fines Virgin Media

BRITAIN'S communications regulator on Wednesday fined British telecoms and television group Virgin Media O2 a record £28 million (\$37 million) for deliberately stopping or delaying customers from cancelling

contracts.

Ofcom found that millions of customer calls between 2022 and 2024 were "likely mishandled" by Virgin Media to delay or prevent customers from switching to a competitor.

Tactics uncovered by the investigation included excessive transfers of calls to other departments, repeatedly keeping customers on hold and deliberately dropping calls. — AFP

CHANGING THE NAME OF INSECTICIDE TRADING

The foreign manufacture Makro Chemical will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board changing trading name –

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	Registration Number
1	Twae Ma Shaung (2)	Zarni Bwar	P 2025-6856

It is therefore announced to come and reject within two weeks to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address : Golden Key Co., Ltd. PABEDAN TOWNSHIP, YANGON. PH: 01371629

ROLLING UPDATES
WORLD

Japan parliament enacts revised law for “demand-based” rice production

The legal framework shifts towards a demand-led approach to production, stripping away legal references to older output adjustments.

JAPAN’S parliament enacted a revised staple food law on Wednesday to improve rice reserve measures and promote a demand-led approach to production, removing reference to output adjustments seen as a continuation of a longstanding cutback policy.

The change departs from a pledge made less than a year ago by Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi’s predecessor Shigeru Ishiba to switch to a boosted production model, with an eye to stabilizing the price of the staple food. Critics say it effectively continues de facto production controls to support farmers, a key base for Takaichi’s ruling Liberal Democratic

Party.

Amid criticism of the changes to encourage a demand-based approach, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Norikazu Suzuki said in an interview last month with Kyodo News, “If our approach is just to increase supplies, market prices will face pressure.”

At the same time, he said that overall rice output could still be expanded by developing demand for rice flour and processed products as well as by promoting exports.

As part of measures to improve the rice reserve system, large private companies such as wholesalers will be required to hold some rice



This change aims to eliminate the remnants of a long-standing government agricultural cutback policy.
PHOTO: KYODO/FILE

stocks for a quick release to retailers in the event of a shortage.

Of the 1 million tonnes deemed an appropriate

level of rice reserves in the country, private companies are tasked with securing about 200,000 tons. — Kyodo

Trump orders cutoff of US trade with Spain during NATO summit

US President Donald Trump announced Wednesday an immediate

halt to all trade, including visits with Spain, criticizing Madrid’s lack of par-

ticipation in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) alliance during a NATO summit held here.

Speaking to journalists alongside NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte ahead of the formal main summit session, Trump said, “Spain is a wasted cause. We don’t want to do any trade business with Spain anymore.”

The US president then publicly directed his administration to sever trade ties. Turning to US Treasury Secretary Scott

Bessent, Trump said: “Spain is a terrible partner in NATO. They don’t participate, they don’t pay. I don’t want anything to do with Spain. Cut off all trade with Spain, including visits.”

Madrid recently declined to meet NATO’s new five per cent gross domestic product (GDP) defense spending target and has refused to allow the United States to utilize its airspace or territory for operations during the war with Iran. —Xinhua



Key topics included new defence procurements, space and surveillance initiatives, and strike capabilities.
PHOTO: NATO

NEWS IN BRIEF

Qatar, UAE condemn attack on tanker

QATAR, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the chief of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) on Tuesday condemned an Iranian attack on a Qatari tanker near the Strait of Hormuz, with Qatar summoning Iran’s deputy ambassador in Doha over the incident.

Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesperson Majed Al Ansari said on social media platform X that Qatar holds Iran “fully legally responsible” for the attack and any resulting damage and consequences, urging Tehran to immediately cease all such practices.

Later in the day, the foreign ministry issued a statement, saying it has delivered a protest note to the Iranian deputy ambassador to Qatar, in which it urged Tehran to provide urgent clarifications, take immediate measures to prevent recurrence, and fully comply with international law. — Xinhua

Nepal convicts ex-ministers over refugee scam

A Nepali court has convicted two former government ministers for taking money from citizens with the false promise of international resettlement as refugees, officials said Wednesday.

Former deputy prime minister Top Bahadur Rayamajhi was convicted of offences against the state, fraud and organized crime, according to the Kathmandu District Court, which issued the verdict on Tuesday. Former interior minister Bal Krishna Khand was convicted of being an accomplice in the case, in which at least 15 people in total were convicted.

More than 100,000 ethnic Nepalis fled Bhutan in the early 1990s – around a sixth of the population – when the Buddhist kingdom made national dress compulsory and restricted the use of the Nepali language. The Nepali-speaking Lhotshampa were called immigrants and stripped of citizenship rights when Bhutan’s then-king introduced a “One Nation, One People” policy in 1985. — AFP

Kremlin: Russia too responsible to start war

RUSSIA is too large and too responsible a country to initiate a third world war, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday.

“Russia is too big and too responsible a country to be an initiator of a third world war. The United States knows the possible consequences of that war as well, plus we have relatively good dialogue. We’re not good enough at bilateral relations because they’re stuck. They’re running on zero-level bilateral relations, but despite that, we are clever enough to talk to each other, and we’re too big and too powerful in terms of mutual deterrence to be at war,” Peskov said in an interview with Swiss newspaper Weltwoche.

US President Donald Trump prefers to resolve problems through negotiations, and Russia welcomes this approach, Peskov said, adding that Russia will never start a world war but will take measures for its own security. — SPUTNIK

SPORTS

Dalic quits after 'incredible era' as Croatia coach

CROATIA'S most successful football coach, Zlatko Dalic, resigned on Wednesday, ending a tenure that included taking the team to the 2018 World Cup final.

"As much as I still feel the ambition and desire to achieve new successes with Croatia, I feel that this is the right moment to bring this incredible era to a close," he said in a statement.

"I am leaving with a full heart and proud that I have made my contribution to the greatest achievements in the history of Croatian football," the 59-year-old added.

Dalic took over as coach in October 2017.

Apart from their final defeat in Russia, where Croatia, led by Luka Modric, lost to France, Dalic guided the nation to the 2022 Qatar World Cup semifinals and the Euro 2020 last 16.

"Zlatko's name will remain forever written in golden letters in the history of Croatian football," Croatian Football Federation (HSN) head Marijan Kustic said. Croatia failed to move into the last 16 of this year's World Cup, losing 2-1 in a gripping match against Portugal earlier this month. Local media are tipping former national coach Slaven Bilic as Dalic's likely successor. — AFP



Zlatko Dalic is quitting as Croatia coach. PHOTO: AFP

Jørn Andersen appointed Myanmar national team head coach



MFF General Secretary Tun Tun Aung and Norwegian coach Jørn Andersen are seen at the signing event for Myanmar national football team's head coach. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT THAW.

THE Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) has appointed Norwegian coach Jørn Andersen as the new head coach of the Myanmar men's national team.

The 63-year-old former Norway international striker replaces local coach Myo Hlaing Win. Andersen has extensive coaching experience, managing clubs in Germany, Greece and Austria, including Mainz, whom he guided to promotion to the Bundesliga. He has also coached national teams including North Korea and Hong Kong, as well as clubs in South Korea and China.

MFF held the contract-signing ceremony and press conference for Andersen on 8 July at the MFF meeting hall. MFF General Secretary Tun Tun Aung and Andersen answered questions from the media after the signing.

Andersen's first international assignment will be a friendly match against Vietnam on 18 July, followed by the ASEAN Hyundai Cup from 24 July to 26 August and the FIFA ASEAN Cup starting in September. — Nyi Myat Thawda/KZL

Swiss party into the night after reaching World Cup quarterfinals

SWISS President Guy Parmelin on Wednesday hailed Switzerland's "historic" achievement in reaching the football World Cup quarterfinals for the first time since 1954.

Switzerland beat Colombia 4-3 on penalties after a goalless draw in Vancouver on Tuesday, setting up a last-eight clash with defending champions Argentina on Saturday in Kansas City.

For viewers in the Alpine nation, the last-16 match in Canada finished shortly before 1 am on Wednesday, it triggering car horns, cowbells and fireworks long into the night. "Congratulations to the entire team and all the staff for this historic result!" Parmelin said on X, in a video from Mexico City, wearing a Switzerland scarf and his red "Switzerland: Great since 1291" baseball cap.

"I enjoyed it; it was tense. And now it's the first step towards the final.

"All the best for the last two matches before the final!"

Sports minister Martin Pfister added on X: "Incredible! The team is inspiring the whole country and setting an example for the next generation of athletes. Bravo!". — AFP

Messi World Cup magic masks familiar penalty frailty

LIONEL Messi once retired from international football after blasting a penalty into the American sky to lose a Copa America final 10 years ago.

A decade on, Messi's problems from the spot persist on US soil, but his magic is more than masking that flaw as he continues to lead the Argentina quest for World Cup glory at the age of 39.

The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner's latest



Lionel Messi remains Argentina's magic man at the World Cup. PHOTO: AFP

penalty miss left the world champions staring at a shock exit to Egypt in the last 16 on Tuesday.

Either side of seeing

his spot-kick saved by Mostafa Shobeir, goals from Yasser Ibrahim and Mostafa Ziko put Egypt into a 2-0 lead with just 11

minutes remaining.

It was already the second time Messi had failed to net a penalty at this tournament — he fired wide against Austria in the group stages — becoming the only player to miss more than one in any World Cup. Adding to misses against Iceland in 2018 and Poland four years ago, Messi's failure to score four World Cup penalties is another record, but an unwanted one. — AFP

Voller stays on as Germany sporting director

RUDI Voller will remain sporting director of the German Football Association (DFB) and help oversee the national team's rebuild, with Jurgen Klopp expected to play a central role in the new setup, the 66-year-old confirmed on Tuesday. Voller's future had come under scrutiny after Germany's World Cup round of 16 elimination by Paraguay and the subsequent resignation of head coach Julian Nagelsmann.

The former Germany coach said he had decided to fulfil his DFB contract, which runs through the 2028 European Championship, after receiving strong backing from senior officials and figures across German football. "I am carrying on," Voller told a small group of media representatives in Frankfurt. "The overall package was ultimately the decisive factor in me continuing." Voller said a lengthy telephone conversation with Klopp on Saturday had been particularly important. Klopp, the DFB's preferred candidate to succeed Nagelsmann, had made clear that he wanted Voller to remain involved. — Xinhua



China, Nordics boost AI governance dialogue

BOTH China and four Nordic countries pay high attention to the development and governance of AI, and the two sides agreed to strengthen dialogue on global AI governance and explore rules on collective governance, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Tuesday.

Mao made the remarks at a regular news briefing when asked for information about Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi’s visit to Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway from 2 to 7 July.

“The four countries are a powerhouse for scientific and technological innovation. China welcomes businesses from both sides to leverage their respective advantages and pool strength for coordination so as to deliver more for our people with innovation outcomes,” Mao said, adding that the four

countries appreciated the principles put forward by China, namely people-centred approach, AI for good, fairness, inclusiveness and collaborative governance.

During the trip, Wang held talks with his counterparts and had friendly exchanges with leaders of the four countries. The two sides agreed to carry forward traditional friendship, maintain high-level exchanges, step up strategic communication, expand comprehensive cooperation, and strive for new development in bilateral ties, Mao said.

Wang welcomed businesses from the four countries to walk into the “fitness club” of the Chinese market to build their strength and share in the opportunities offered by China’s mega market, complete industrial chains, and diversified application scenarios. — Xinhua

Think tank warns global AI fails

US artificial intelligence lab Anthropic scored the highest in a semiannual safety ranking, but globally the industry fails to combat “existential” threats, according to a report released on Tuesday.

Meta moved up two spots to fourth place, while xAI dropped three spots to seventh place, just ahead of China’s DeepSeek and France’s Mistral, which placed last, according to US-based AI safety think tank Future of Life Institute, which ranked nine of the world’s leading AI companies. Seven researchers and governance experts determined the rankings based on public data and

information provided by the companies.

They evaluated efforts across six distinct categories: risk assessment, current harms, safety frameworks, existential safety, governance and accountability, and information sharing.

No company received an “A” in any single category, while Anthropic got the best overall score of “C+.”

Mistral was included on the list for the first time, though when asked by AFP to comment on its last place, the company said the report’s framework isn’t suited for its approach to developing AI models. — AFP

Indian PM Modi departs for Australia after 3-day Indonesia visit

The temple is one of South-East Asia’s most prominent Hindu heritage sites and is formally recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday embarked for Melbourne, Australia, after concluding the Indonesia leg of his three-nation visit on 6-8 July.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in Australia on Wednesday. This is PM Modi’s third visit to Australia, and he will be visiting Melbourne after a gap of 12 years. His last visit to Melbourne was in November 2014, and his last visit to Australia was in May 2023.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi and President Prabowo inaugurated the restoration project of the nearly 1,000-year-old Prambanan Temple, marking a significant milestone in India-Indonesia cultural cooperation. The temple, one of South-East Asia’s



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with Australian leader Anthony Albanese during his last visit to Australia in 2023. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

most prominent Hindu heritage sites, is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Indian High Commissioner to Australia Nagesh Singh says the Australia visit by the Prime Minister will see several outcomes emerge during his meetings with Australian PM Albanese.

The Indian Prime Minister is travelling to Melbourne to participate in the third annual leaders’ summit with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

The two leaders will review the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership originally signed in 2022 to evaluate current

progress and direct future relations.

The bilateral meetings will cover the entire range of the partnership, specifically focusing on defence, security, trade, investment, education, clean technologies, critical technologies, and people-to-people connections. — ANI

Iran declares all US bases legitimate targets

IRAN’S military is ready to attack all US bases in the Middle East in the event of a repeat of US strikes on Iran, the Iranian army said on Wednesday.

“The consequences of repeated violations of the ceasefire [by the United States] fall on the criminal United States, all bases will become legitimate targets for strikes using army drones,” the Iranian army said in a statement quoted by the state-run IRNA news



This image shows Isa Air Base in Bahrain, which hosts the Royal Bahraini Air Force Fighter Wing. **PHOTO: VISUAL PURPOSE/WIKIPEDIA/FILE**

agency.

The military said it

struck targets at Sheikh Isa air base in Bahrain.

Meanwhile, Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said it had targeted Ali Al Salem air base in Kuwait and Port Salman in Bahrain, which falls under the US navy’s Fifth Fleet area of responsibility.

Anyone who supports the US’s operation against Iran is a legitimate target for the Iranian armed forces, the Khatam Al-Anbiya central headquarters of the Iranian military command, said. — SPUTNIK